

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A staining machine for treatment of tissue specimens on slides placed in baskets, which machine includes:

a number of baths placed successively in two juxtaposed and parallel bath rows, the first bath row extending from an input station located at a first end of the staining machine to an opposite end of the first bath row located at a second end of the staining machine, and the second bath row extending from an output station located at the first end of the staining machine to an opposite end of the second bath row located at the second end of the staining machine;

a first transport device for successive and simultaneous transport of the baskets in the first bath row from one bath to the next one from the input station to the opposite end of the first bath row,

a second transport device for successive and simultaneous transport of the baskets in the second bath row from one bath to the next one from the opposite end of the second bath row to the output station,

a device for the transfer of baskets from a bath at the opposite end of the first bath row to a bath at the opposite end of the second bath row;

wherein each of said first and second transport device comprises a pair of cheeks extending along respective sides of the first and second bath rows and being adapted for engagement with respective baskets, and wherein the staining machine

further comprises a device for lifting and lowering of each of the cheek pairs for successive movement of baskets from bath to bath;

wherein the lifting and lowering device comprises a pair of toothed belts of which each runs in a closed path over an upper and a lower guide wheel comprised in the staining machine, and of which each is coupled to an end portion of a respective cheek via a carrier, and wherein the staining machine further comprises a step motor by means of which the toothed belts are driven synchronously;

wherein the pair of toothed belts at an end of the machine are coupled via an additional toothed belt to a corresponding pair of toothed belts arranged at an opposite end of the machine with appurtenant guide wheels and carriers at the other end of the cheeks, so that the cheeks are lifted and lowered synchronously at each end thereof; and

wherein the baskets are transported from the input station to the output station in accordance with a predetermined treatment program.

2. (Previously Presented) A staining machine according to claim 1, wherein the input and output stations are situated next to each other, and the device for the transfer of baskets comprises a crossbar device.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented) A staining machine according to claim 2, wherein the crossbar device comprises a crossbar bracket which is adapted for releasable connection with a basket, and which is coupled to a means for reciprocating movement of the crossbar bracket in a horizontal path.

7. (Previously Presented) A staining machine according to claim 6, further comprising movement means comprising a slide block which is coupled to the crossbar bracket and is displaceable on a horizontal guide rod, the slide block being coupled to a toothed belt which is driven back and forth by means of a step motor.